

# What's New in the City



## City of Natchitoches



### Lee Posey elected as Mayor of Natchitoches

April 1, 2012

Former Natchitoches City Councilman Lee Posey has been elected as the new Mayor of Natchitoches.

Mayor-elect Lee Posey won the City of Natchitoches mayoral race on Saturday, March 24. He received 2,425 votes or 51 percent of the votes.

Mayor-elect Posey is set to officially take office on Friday, June 1. An inauguration ceremony is being planned at the Natchitoches Events Center.

He is the owner of Posey's Sporting Goods in



Natchitoches and previously served as a member of the Natchitoches City Council.

Current Mayor Wayne McCullen will remain in office until May 31. Prior to serving three terms, or 12 years, as mayor of Natchitoches, Mayor McCullen served as Natchitoches' City Councilman-at-Large for 20 years. He has the record for serving the longest term in public office in the City of Natchitoches.

Information about Mayor Posey's June 1 Inauguration will be disseminated to the public as soon as details are made available.

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#### Did you know?

- The City of Natchitoches has been listed as one of the top three places to retire in Louisiana in the March 26 online edition of SMART-MONEY.COM. Natchitoches joins Lafayette and New Orleans as "three affordable retirement havens in the Pelican State."

- The Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival is moving to April! Read the full article on page 3 to learn more about this year's Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival and its new date.

### Keep Natchitoches Beautiful to host citywide cleanup

The City of Natchitoches, Keep Natchitoches Beautiful and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office are asking volunteers to assist with a parish-wide cleaning campaign this spring.

April will start a month-long campaign to keep the Natchitoches Parish area beautiful. April is known as Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month. As part of that celebration, residents and groups are being asked to organize community cleanups throughout Natchitoches. A concentrated citywide



cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 28. This cleanup is part of a national campaign known as the "Great American Cleanup."

Saturday, April 28 will

mark the official Keep Natchitoches Beautiful cleanup day, which will be held alongside the City's Earth Day celebration. That day will also kick off the 2012 Cane River Green Market, Natchitoches' local farmer's market.

Although an official community cleanup takes place on Saturday, April 28, groups and volunteers are welcome to organize their own personal cleanup any time during this spring throughout the community, including parks, play-

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## Cane River Creole NHP to celebrate National Park Week

Cane River Creole NHP will be doing its part to celebrate National Park Week by hosting a volunteer clean-up day on April 21, and Junior Ranger Day on April 28.

On April 21 families, students, scouts, and anyone else is invited to help park staff clean historic buildings and visitor use areas at Oakland Plantation. We will also be planting our spring garden with cotton, okra, and other vegetables. The cleanup will take

place between 9am and 12pm. If you are interested in helping please let us know ahead of time by calling 318 356-8441.

On April 28 children and families are invited to visit Oakland Plantation for Junior Ranger Day. Junior Ranger Activity Stations will be set up throughout the park. Children will be able to experience what it was like to shop at the plantation store, learn how cotton went from the field to the factory, and create their own original piece of folk art. After completing each station, Junior Rangers will receive a badge, certificate, and patch. The Junior Ranger Activity Stations will be open between 10am-

4pm.

On April 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 at Cane River Creole NHP's Magnolia Plantation Complex, visitors will be screening the National Park documentary "This is America". The documentary is a 45 minute companion film to the



critically acclaimed Ken Burns National Park film recently seen on PBS. This film will be shown throughout the day upon request.

National Park Week, which lasts until April 29

is the perfect time to re-visit or visit for the first time your local National Park. The park's two plantations, Oakland and Magnolia are open seven days a week. Magnolia, home of one of the oldest cotton presses in existence is open for self-guided tours during the week, with guided tours provided on the weekends. Guided tours are provided at Oakland every day. Each plantation is home to numerous original structures which help tell the story of the Creole culture. For more information call 318 356-8441 or visit our website at: <http://www.nps.gov/cari/>

## Entries sought for 2012 Festival Poster

Artists are being sought to design the 2012 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster.

The theme for the poster is "Louisiana Bicentennial (1812-2012)". Artists who would like to enter the contest should submit a drawing or painting to the Natchitoches Arts Council using the chosen theme.

The completed artist's sketch or painting should be 18 inches wide and 24 inches tall in size. If chosen, the painting will become the exclusive property of the Natchitoches Arts Council. The chosen artist will receive a commission of \$600. The deadline for entering the competition is Friday, June 22, 2012.

All entries should be submitted to Nancy McDowell, Community Development, 420 Fourth Street, Natchitoches, LA, 71457. The Natchitoches Arts Council is not

responsible for insuring the safe or timely delivery of the art work to the appropriate party. Those entries not picked up within 90 days of the June 22nd deadline will become property of the Natchitoches Arts Council.

Numbered prints in the form of a poster will be available and on sale to the public some time in early October. All posters sell for \$35 each. The 1980-2004 collage poster sells for \$15. Small posters (3 3/4" x 5") are \$2 or two for \$3.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster has been a tradition for 32 years. All the original artwork can be viewed at the Natchitoches Arts Council office located at Community Development (City Hall Annex), 420 Fourth St.

For more information about the poster contest, call Karen Terrell at (318) 352-6925 or Nancy McDowell at (318) 357-3838.

## Cleanup, cont'd. from page 1

grounds, neighborhoods, streets, etc. Be sure to do your part in keeping our community beautiful!

Volunteers will be provided with trash bags and rubber gloves for their cleanup. Those who volunteer on Saturday, April 28 will be treated to light refreshments on the riverbank at what is known as "cleanup headquarters."

Those who wish to volunteer for the community cleanup or need more information can call Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at 352-2746 or 357-3822 or the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office Com-

munity Services Division at 238-7550.

In celebration of Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month, KNB is sponsoring a photo contest. Post a picture of your favorite "beautiful" spot in Natchitoches or of you and a group cleaning areas of the city on the KNB Facebook page and be eligible to win prizes throughout the month of April.

For more information on any of these activities, look us up on Facebook.com/Keep Natchitoches Beautiful.

## Jazz in the Park to be held April 5



The City of Natchitoches Main Street Program is sponsoring "Jazz in the Park," a free jazz concert in Beau Jardin on Thursday, April 5.

Jazz in the Park is a free outdoor concert that will take place in Beau Jardin, Natchitoches' newest garden and waterfall feature located on the north end of the downtown riverbank in the Natchitoches Historic District.

The concert will take place on Thursday, April 5 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The general public is invited to attend. Musical entertainment will be provided by Chico's Quintet (+1), a young established group of musicians, portraying the

sounds of Jazz, Latin, Funk and R&B. Not only do these musicians reinvent the traditional standards – their original compositions combine the old traditions of jazz to the energetic passion of today's top hits. The group features trumpeter Carlos Ortiz IV, a Northwestern State graduate. Their music can be found on iTunes, Amazon and CD Baby.

Some chairs will be available for seating. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own refreshments and beverages while listening to the concert.

For information about Jazz in the Park, call the Natchitoches Main Street office at (318) 352-2746.

## Melrose Arts & Crafts Festival Moves dates to April 21-22

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Melrose Plantation Arts and Crafts Festival will be hosted in the gardens of the plantation home on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. One hundred vendors from around the region will exhibit and sell their original work.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students (under 12) and gets you in all day. In

addition to the arts & crafts, food and dessert vendors will be on hand.

Melrose Plantation is located just 15 miles south of Natchitoches at 3533 Hwy 119, Melrose.

Tours of this historic plantation home will be given throughout the weekend for an additional cost.

## Summer Splash set for May 15

Participants are now being sought to take part in Summer Splash, a free informational fair designed to inform families about summer activities and programs.

Summer Splash will be held on Tuesday, May 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

If your group or organiza-

tion is offering activities or programs this summer for youth, please consider displaying your information at Summer Splash. Booth space is free. For more information on ways to participate, call the City's Office of Programming & Promotions at 357-3822 or the Main Street office at 352-2746.

## Arts Council awards scholarship



Karen Terrell, Chairwoman of the Natchitoches Arts Council, recently announced the Council's contribution of \$10,000 to the Northwestern State University Foundation for a City of Natchitoches Arts Council Endowed Scholarship.

In addition to the Endowed Scholarship, the Natchitoches Arts Council provided a \$500 scholarship to Anna Dieter, a junior Fine Arts Major at Northwestern State University with a concentration in painting and drawing. She lives in Provencal with her fiancé, Wayne Rachal, and

their two-year-old son, Daniel.

Anna's hobbies include face painting and creating murals for children's rooms. She plans to work towards a Minor in Photography at NSU in the fall and her future plans are to attend graduate school at Louisiana Tech University to pursue her Master's Degree in Fine Arts.

Proceeds from sales of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival poster are used to fund these scholarships at Northwestern State University.



## City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37  
700 Second Street  
Natchitoches, La.  
71458

Phone: 318-352-2772  
Fax: 318-357-3829  
E-mail:  
cityhall@natchitochesla.gov

# Happy Easter!



## Cane River Green Market season opens April 28

Cane River Green Market, Natchitoches' local farmer's market, will open its 2012 season on Saturday, April 28 on the downtown riverbank.

The Green Market will operate every Saturday on the downtown riverbank through Saturday, July 28. This

year's market hours are 8 a.m. to noon.

Local dignitaries, Green Market vendors and patrons will be on site on opening day at 10 a.m. to cut the green ribbon to begin the 2012 season. Children will be able to participate in Earth Day and spring craft activities.

Besides fresh fruits, vegetables and plants, customers can choose from a selection of "value-added products" including

fresh eggs, baked goods, jams, jellies, honey, fresh flowers, herbs and much more.

Crafters will sell their hand-made items at the market such as wood-work, artwork, jewelry, stained glass, soaps, pottery and more.

Each weekend at the market, special events and activities

will take place including live music, demonstrations, children's activities, and much more. The market also accepts Senior and WIC vouchers.

To learn about the different activities taking place each Saturday at the market, please call the Green Market office at (318) 352-CRGM or visit [www.canerivergreenmarket.com](http://www.canerivergreenmarket.com).



## Upcoming holidays and important events

April – Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month

April 3 – Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 5 – Jazz in the Park from 6-9 p.m. at Beau Jardin

April 6 – Good Friday; City of Natchitoches closed.

April 8 – Easter

April 9 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 16 – Natchitoches Air-



port Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

April 19 – Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting at 10 a.m. at the Arts Center.

April 20 – Kids' Health Fest from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Prather Coliseum on the NSU Campus.

April 23 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 24 – International Food Festival from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the south end of Front

Street

April 27 – Relay for Life, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Demon Commons Tailgating Field on the NSU Campus

April 28 – Opening day of Cane River Green Market from 8 a.m. to noon; Citywide Cleanup/ Natchitoches' Earth Day Celebration

